

Red Brigades Kidnap an American General in Italy

FRI 18, DEC 1981

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 — Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier, a United States Army staff officer, was abducted today in Verona, Italy, a Pentagon spokesman disclosed tonight.

The Red Brigades, the leftist guerrilla group, took responsibility for the kidnapping in a telephone call to the Italian news agency ANSA.

The Pentagon spokesman, Col. Ronald A. Duchin, said that an unknown number of men broke into General Dozier's apartment at 5:30 P.M. Italian time (11:30 A.M. New York time), tied up his wife, Judith, and bodily carried General Dozier away.

A phone call to the Milan office of ANSA said: "We have kidnapped Brigadier General James Dozier in Verona. A communiqué will follow."

The general is the first American kidnapped by the Red Brigades, although the group has abducted several Italian officials, including former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, who was killed in 1978.

Served in NATO Command

The Pentagon spokesman said General Dozier, who is 50 years old and from Arcadia, Fla., is deputy chief of staff for logistics and administration at the Verona headquarters for allied land forces in southern Europe. That command is part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

According to police sources in Verona

quoted by The Associated Press, there were four assailants carrying guns, and a scuffle took place during which the general was hurt.

The police sources said the general had been placed inside a trunk and loaded into a vehicle, which sped away.

Before his assignment in Italy, General Dozier was a student at the Defense Language Institute, where he studied Italian.

There have been previous terrorist attacks on senior United States Army officers in Europe. In June 1979 a bomb was placed under an automobile in which Gen. Alexander M. Haig, Jr., then the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe, was riding near his headquarters in Belgium. Mr. Haig is Secretary of State now.

General's Auto Was Ambushed

On Sept. 15 a terrorist unit in West Germany ambushed an automobile carrying Gen. Frederick J. Kroesen, the commander of United States forces in Europe, and his wife.

In neither case were the officers seriously injured. But security guards were hurt.

A Pentagon spokesman said tonight that generals serving in Europe had been cautioned after the attack on General Kroesen to be more aware of their person security. He declined to give details.

General Dozier, according to his records in the Pentagon, was graduated

from the Military Academy at West Point in 1956 and is an armored forces officer. Before going to Italy, he was successively a brigade commander, a division chief of staff and a corps chief of staff at Fort Hood, Tex.

Italy Orders Search

Special to The New York Times

ROME, Friday, Dec. 18 — A United States Army spokesman said tonight that General Dozier had been abducted by four armed men who entered his apartment disguised as plumbers.

The Italian news agency ANSA said Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini had ordered a major search.

The spokesman, Maj. Mario Gargiulo, said the kidnappers had struck the general, stunning him. They bound his wife with chains and plastic tape.

Major Gargiulo said the general had put up no resistance, possibly to prevent harm to his wife, Judith. He quoted Mrs. Dozier as saying the men took her husband away in what appeared to be a steamship trunk. She was slightly injured around the wrists from being bound.

Major Gargiulo said the abduction was discovered when Mrs. Dozier alerted neighbors by banging on the wall of her sixth-floor apartment.

The spokesman said the police had found a van in Verona that they believed was the getaway vehicle.